

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 February 2005 (17.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/014606 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07F 9/50

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/008497

(22) International Filing Date: 29 July 2004 (29.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
03016649.0 31 July 2003 (31.07.2003) EP

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

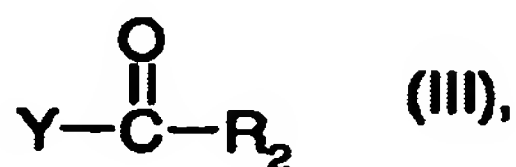
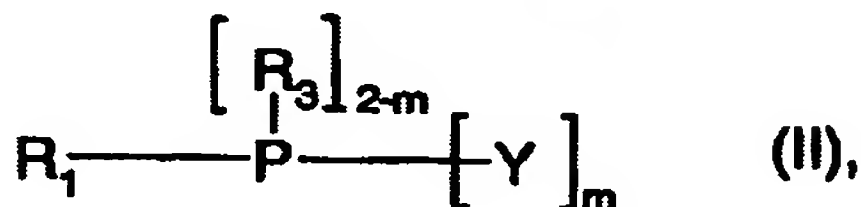
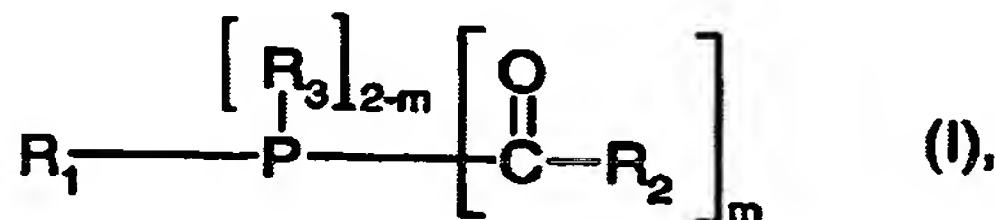
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ACYLPHOSPHINES



(57) **Abstract:** A process for the preparation of acylphosphines of formula (I) wherein m is 1 or 2; R₁, R₂, and R₃ are organic residues derived from aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbons; by (1) reacting organic phosphorus halides of formula (II) wherein Y is Br or Cl, with an alkali metal in a solvent in the presence of an activator, wherein the alkali metal is present in the form of a dispersion of alkali metal particles having a mean particle size of ≤ 500 μm in the solvent, (2) subsequent reaction with acid halides of formula (III) which process is carried out without isolation of the intermediates. Preferably, R₁, R₂ and R₃ are independently from each other phenyl, naphthyl and bi-phenyl, being unsubstituted or substituted by one to five halogen, C₁-C₈ alkyl and/or C₁-C₈ alkoxy. Most preferably, R₁ and R₃ are phenyl and R₂ is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl. The alkali metal is preferably sodium, the activator is preferably chlorobenzene and/or n-butanol.